

NOTES | March 1, 2007

Monitoring Work Group

Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan

The Monitoring Work Group has scheduled 3 meetings in February and March to develop a proposed monitoring program for the Basin Advisory Panel to consider at its March 22, 2007, meeting.

Next Meeting (3/12)

- Refined draft monitoring program write up
- Land Subsidence
 - What data is available
 - How to include it in the plan? As a data gap?

Action Items

- Jay—Discuss confidentiality issues related to data collection and accessibility of data with attorneys

Groundwater Management Plan Considerations

Participants discussed the following considerations during the meeting:

- Standard format for data collection
- Coordinate the time of sampling and the sampling interval (time between samples) to ensure data consistency
- Data quality and how data will be verified
- Need to develop a standard way of approaching volunteers to participate in the monitoring program
- The goal is to identify existing monitoring wells and the need for additional monitoring, then apply for funding to put in additional monitoring wells
- The Plan should include a detailed list of recommendations for the monitoring program that should be prioritized. The work group urges that the plan have as much detail as possible, taking advantage of the resources currently available (consultant and active Basin Advisory Panel) and preparing the necessary information so the monitoring program can be implemented as funds become available.

Monitoring Considerations

- Depth:
 - Need a range of depths as part of monitored wells.
 - The USGS report identified three depth ranges (shallow, medium and deep). The monitoring program will need wells across those three areas.
- Quality: Lawrence Livermore Lab is interested in teaming with SCWA under Prop 50 to do an isotope study to look at the “age” of water. SCWA thinks the Sonoma Valley might be a good location.
- Surface / Groundwater Interaction

- Stakeholders would like to have stream gages and wells near streams to address surface / groundwater interaction.
- Seepage reports have also been completed and should be reviewed.
- Consider transect of wells perpendicular to the stream gage to evaluate surface-ground water interaction.
- Recharge Areas and Land Use: Stakeholders are interested in identifying recharge areas. The Sonoma Ecology Center is thinking of adopting the DWR land use survey protocols to update land use data since DWR was last in the region in 1999 and will not be able to return for a while. The land use data is the major limiting factor to make USGS model analyses more recent than 2000.
- USGS made gross calculations on the entire aquifer. Is the goal of the monitoring program to understand the different aquifers?
- Most wells being monitored are production wells. Want to make sure that the data is consistent. Concern about the quality of data if from a production well rather than a “monitoring” well.
- Technical Advisory Committee should be considered as part of the institutional framework for implementing the groundwater management plan.
- How to verify protocols are being followed.

Volunteer Program

- Minimum requirements for the monitoring program would be met by public wells or wells monitored by public agencies while the voluntary program would be used to supplement the minimum program.
- Public outreach and education tool
- Value of community participation
- Criteria for selecting volunteer wells:
 - Frequency of pumpage
 - Proximity of different wells
 - Frequency of measuring
 - Wells previous in the program because these provide historical data
 - Areas where depression (groundwater levels are decreasing) as another priority area
- Identify area and depths needed in the monitoring program.
- Determine how to collect the data
- Need to have an access permit to avoid liability issues and specify frequency
- Be clear with the participant whatever the parameters are: Will the well location be displayed? To what level of detail? If data can be downloaded, the monitoring site will likely be available.
- Need for someone to manage the program
- Consider having a technical advisory committee who meets annually to measure the results
- All monitors would be trained.

Participants

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